Our theme at Hope in 2015 is Back to Basics, a year-long journey through the Gospels. We started the year surveying the highly practical and relevant teaching from Matthew’s Gospel, followed by an action-packed run of miracles and healing stories in Mark, and now we’re swimming in the calm and cool waters of Luke. We’ll finish strong by unpacking the complex, rich and mystical Gospel of John (my personal favorite).

Along the way, we’ve already grown to become a more biblically fluent church, deeper in faith and stronger in mission. More than ever, Hope folks are immersed in the Bible as a regular devotional habit, taking classes to study God’s word at church, talking about it in small groups, and living it out in daily life.

It’s been inspiring to see, but perhaps we shouldn’t be surprised. There’s serious power in God’s word. The prophet Isaiah puts it like this:

"It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.” – Isaiah 55:11

Turns out, the old familiar stories of Jesus and his love from the Gospels never really get old. The biblical stories of God intersect with our story, and when that happens, we find our spiritual stride and rhythm in life.

As we look forward to a new year at Hope – 2016 – our primary all-church theme will be to find those places of communion with God that lead to times of refreshment … like hitting the refresh button on a laptop, the hope is that throughout the next year, we will experience a full and thorough reFRESH!

“… turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord ….” – Acts 3:19-20

The Bible is full of stories that describe holy encounters between ordinary people and God, with new life as the end result. Souls are renewed. Spirits are refreshed.

More specifically, we’ll reFRESH as a church family in weekly worship, with a focus on the abundant blessings God brings to us (and our faithful reception and response to those blessings). We’ll reFRESH with a renewed commitment to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to a new generation of children and young adults by launching a new weekend children’s ministry called HopeKids, upgrading our ministries to junior high, senior high and young adults, and creating beautiful, safe and colorful kid-friendly spaces in our church buildings. We’ll reFRESH by constructing some new and exciting “on ramps” for church members to get connected in groups and ministries, helping you to find your place of connection (and your church family) within Hope. We’ll reFRESH by moving closer toward opening new building spaces for two of our four satellite campuses, and officially re-launching Lutheran Church of Hope’s online campus – HopeOnline.TV – which will provide an opportunity for the development of new missional communities (groups meeting together in living rooms to worship the Lord) all over the world!

It’s time to hit the reFRESH button at Hope, and be immersed in the cleansing waters of God’s love!

That’s my heartfelt prayer for us as a church family in 2016, and my hope for the restless world around us that God calls us to reach … that we will all experience the fullness of God’s love, finding rest for our weary souls, and renewed strength to share this love with hundreds of thousands more who don’t know about it … yet.

Grace and peace,

Mike Houshholder, Senior Pastor

P.S. - As always, I want to close my annual report with a word of thanks to you, my sisters and brothers in Christ at Lutheran Church of Hope. You are, without a doubt, the most amazing and faithful church family a pastor could ever have the joy of working and serving alongside … and I am so grateful for you! What’s more, I am surrounded with a super church staff who serve Jesus and you with mass quantities of talent and commitment to our mission as a church … it truly is a joy to be a part of this Spirited, Growing and Christ-centered community that’s filled with HOPE! Thank you!
**MISSION**
Reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ!

**VISION**
A spirited (Acts 2), growing (Matthew 28) and Christ-centered (John 13) community filled with hope!

**CORE VALUES**
1. Jesus is life. The rest is just details.
2. Lost people matter to God, and so they matter to us.
3. We worship God, not tradition.
4. Christianity is a growing experience.
5. We are one body, united in Christ.

**A LOOK BACK**

**September – December 2014:**

**January – August 2015:**
MEMBERSHIP

Total number of members (all campuses)
18,032

Total number of members (per campus)
- WDM: 14,250
- Ankeny: 1,683
- Des Moines: 287
- J-G: 937
- Waukee: 138

Total number of NEW members (all campuses)
673

Total number of NEW members (per campus)
- WDM: 419
- Ankeny: 156
- Des Moines: 28
- J-G: 32
- Waukee: 25

10 YEAR ANNUAL ATTENDANCE GROWTH

Yearly attendance growth:
- 2005: 3,829
- 2006: 4,393
- 2007: 4,713
- 2008: 5,654
- 2009: 6,801
- 2010: 7,480
- 2011: 8,408
- 2012: 9,123
- 2013: 9,880
- 2014: 10,231
- 2015: 10,536
CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

32,850

PEOPLE CELEBRATED CHRIST’S BIRTH AT HOPE ACROSS ALL OF OUR CAMPUSES.

WEST DES MOINES  29,264
ANKENY           2,132
DES MOINES       404
JOHNSTON-GRIMES  572
WAUKEE           478

EASTER

HE IS RISEN!

27,233

PEOPLE CELEBRATED JESUS’ RESURRECTION AT HOPE ACROSS ALL OF OUR CAMPUSES.

WEST DES MOINES  21,648
ANKENY           3,002
DES MOINES       603
JOHNSTON-GRIMES  1,216
WAUKEE           764
**BAPTISMS**

“SOME OF US ARE JEWS, SOME ARE GENTILES, SOME ARE SLAVES, AND SOME ARE FREE. BUT WE HAVE ALL BEEN BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY BY ONE SPIRIT, AND WE ALL SHARE THE SAME SPIRIT.”

1 Corinthians 12:13

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**MISSIONS**

Thank you, Hope, for the incredible ways you shared the everlasting love of Jesus Christ this past year! Whether it’s a woman in Iowa that was rescued from human trafficking, or a child in Haiti that received a meal for the first time in days … your abundant generosity is blessing thousands and opening doors for His redemptive light to shine into some of the darkest places of the world! Looking through the numbers below, it’s clear to see we have so much to celebrate and be thankful for! Way to put your faith into action, Hope, and praise God for what he is doing in and through us!

Mark Hoffschneider
Missions Director

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### 2015 Lenten Project: Hope for the Hungry:
- **8,335** volunteers
- **12,532** volunteer hours
- **2,587,578** meals packaged
- **$62,1619** raised
- **10,000** combo packs packaged

### Souper Bowl Food Drive:
- **65** pantries filled
- **$23,808** raised

### World Malaria Day:
- **$31,200** raised and given to the ELCA World Malaria Campaign to fight malaria in Africa.

### go(Serve):
- **700+** attended go(Serve) workshops throughout the year, focusing on:
  - At-Risk Youth
  - The Table: Burma Immigration
  - The Table: Burundi

### Fill-a-Backpack Challenge:
- **2,500** backpacks filled and distributed through local schools and mission partners

### Number of short-term missionaries sent:
- **260**

### Vacation Bible School Mission Project:
- **12** pallets of food were delivered to 7 local partners.

### Thanksgiving Meal Packaging Event:
- **196,776** meals packaged

### 2014 Advent Project:
- **$40,000** raised

### The Cupboard:
- **80** families served per week
- **55** volunteers per week
CARE
SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST!

One of Lutheran Church of Hope’s Core Values is that lost people matter to God, so they matter to us. Through the programs, classes and services offered within the Care ministry, we continue to be blessed to walk this value out on a daily basis. By meeting people in the midst of their pain or hardship, it opens the door for us to introduce them to the love of Christ in a real and tangible way.

“Over the years, we have seen many families return weekly to get groceries and clothing – it has been a blessing to see their families flourish and be able to clothe the new babies as well as others. I enjoy welcoming new immigrant families and helping them select clothing – especially when they are preparing for their first Iowa winter. One of my favorite moments happened when a large donation of Christmas themed plush toys was distributed to kids in July. It is always so heart-warming to see the kids’ eyes light up when they get to select a new toy, but especially in the middle of the summer!”

— OUTREACH NIGHT VOLUNTEER

“I have a forever family and I am loved just as I am, faults & all. God is my redeemer.”

— CELEBRATE RECOVERY PARTICIPANT

“Before Celebrate Recovery I was anxiety ridden and depressed; feeling like a failure. Because of Celebrate Recovery I have had victories over my character defects and life is better than it has ever been!”

— CELEBRATE RECOVERY PARTICIPANT

“Celebrate Recovery has given me the ability to live my life in a safe, Christian way. It has provided forever friendships that I had not experienced before. I believe it has saved my marriage.”

— CELEBRATION RECOVERY PARTICIPANT

“I am no longer living a double life in the shadows. Celebrate Recovery has shown me that a Christ centered recovery program is really the true higher power needed to maintain my recovery, but more importantly, change my whole life, not just my particular area of recovery.”

— CELEBRATION RECOVERY PARTICIPANT

“My son passed away unexpectedly. If it weren’t for the comfort and support of the Care team, the loss would have been unbearable. They and the pastors were with us during his brief stay in the hospital. They were praying with us and holding our hands during that very sad time. Their help with his Celebration of Life service was such a blessing. I was able to grieve, rather than having to worry about details of his visitation and service. But their help didn’t stop when the funeral was over. They continue to pray with us and support us during our time of healing. I know I can go to them anytime for any reason.”

— HOPE MEMBER

“When my brother passed away, it was the hardest thing for me and I have ever gone through. I can’t imagine how we would have made it without the support and love of the Care team at Hope. After the funeral was finished, the support didn’t end there. The staff at Hope is still constantly checking up on us and praying for our family. We couldn’t have asked for better support from the staff and we are so blessed to have them in our lives.”

— HOPE ONLINE WORSHIPPER
CHILDREN & STUDENT MINISTRY

We have seen God do incredible things in the lives of children, students and families at Hope in the past year! We are thankful to have partnered with hundreds of volunteers to provide programming to an average of 2,300 children and students each week! Through the use of outstanding speakers, skits, small group leaders and volunteers of all kind, students focused on virtues such as kindness, gratitude, humility, respect, and themes like evangelism and serving.

In the last year we saw God do big things through events held as well. PowerLife did a first ever ‘Share the Love’ event in February and partnered with Ignition students for a packaging event in August. Through the two events, students packaged 159,408 meals that will go to those in need! Student Ministry also had 1,500 students attend three different ‘First Wednesday’ events, keeping energy and excitement alive in the summer. The younger group had another phenomenal year of Vacation Bible School as they focused on Gettin’ Reel with Jesus! enthusiasm!

We celebrate what God has done in the past year for students and families, and look forward to what he will do in the year to come!

Emily Lanpgaul
Children’s & Student Ministry Director

"It has been a blessing teaching KQ at Hope for so many years. It is an opportunity to get to know families in a big church like Hope and see kids grow in their faith as they grow up. It is an opportunity to grow in my own faith because I get to lead the children through a lesson and when I get to do that, I end up processing the information right along with them." – KQ VOLUNTEER

"I always thought volunteering was about giving to others, which it is. But, I didn’t realize the impact it would have on my own life. It doesn’t matter how bad my day or week has been, watching those kids ‘get it’ nearly brings me to tears every time I song lead! When a little boy or girl comes up to me at a store or at a school, waves at me and says “You song lead at Hope!” I just melt! I know that we are leaving a lasting impression on these kids of how much Jesus loves them, and that strengthens my personal faith journey!" – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER

"It’s always inspiring and humbling (and often hilarious) to sit on the front lines of what God is up to in PowerLife. It’s especially powerful to spend three years with the same kids. In our case, my co-leader and I got to see our guys enter as kids and grow into young men. We would also see them (sometimes in the same night!) go from being squirrelly, to asking some of the deepest and most meaningful questions about life and God. I’m grateful to have had the experience!" – POWERLIFE LEADER

"Being the new PowerLife Leader in the class, I was excited to get to know these girls on a deeper level. I asked God for guidance. I prayed He would open my heart so that I would know the best way to love & inspire them. I prayed that He would show me how to align my passion and talents for facilitating adults with the existing PowerLife curriculum… He did that and more!" – POWERLIFE LEADER

"I was invited to become a song leader by a dear friend well over 10 years ago, and it has changed me in ways I can’t explain. Leading the kids in song to worship God in a joyful way both at VBS and during KQ makes my heart sing! I am not a talented singer, but I have a great love for kids. Seeing them light up while singing and dancing is fantastic! I think one of my favorite parts of VBS is seeing the whole gym or worship center vibrating with song and dance in worship, and how it not only becomes contagious for the kids to join in, but their parents coming to pick them up are caught up as well. What amazing Jesus fun!" – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER

"I am so grateful for this ministry. I have realized that my ability to relay God’s message effectively doesn’t really mean I have to know everything about the Bible, or be the perfect Christian (though we strive to be both!). I think it is just about being an example of God’s love. Like a middle man of sorts to prepare their hearts and minds to feel God’s love and presence in their lives. All while having the best time ever!" – WOW VOLUNTEER

VBS IN NUMBERS:

7,447 children attended across ALL campuses
6,045 in West Des Moines
898 in Ankeny
135 in Des Moines
369 in Johnston-Grimes
3,140 volunteers made it possible
2,635 in West Des Moines
246 in Ankeny
121 in Des Moines
138 in Johnston-Grimes

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE
2,123 dads and daughters danced the night away in West Des Moines and Ankeny

POWERLIFE
442 students confirmed across all campuses
32 students baptized

IGNITION
160+ students participated in Ignition each week
91 students and leaders attended BigStuf

KINGDOM QUEST
750+ kids attended every weekend
270 volunteers made it possible!

FIRST COMMUNION
115 kids received their first communion

MOM & SON TAILGATE
200+ moms and sons joined us for the Mom & Son Tailgate
ADULT MINISTRY

Hundreds of classes were made available this past year for adults of all ages and backgrounds. It was a blessing to walk alongside each and every participant as they learned, grew and nurtured their faith in Jesus Christ!

“As a active member of the Group Launch ministry, I’ve been blessed by watching how the Spirit brings people together in community. To see people loved, cared for, prayed over and included in a group that makes a big church feel smaller is immensely rewarding. I’ve learned to appreciate diversity within people and how much we truly need each other.”

– HOPE MEMBER | LIFE GROUPS MINISTRY

“I was invited to visit an early morning Women’s Bible study, SALT (Sisters All Learning Together). I was immediately welcomed by this wonderful group of women, and it quickly became an important part of my week. Together we study God’s word, learn and share the many ways he’s at work in our lives… I’ve been incredibly blessed to be part of this special group.”

– HOPE MEMBER | WOMEN OF HOPE MINISTRY

“Alpha taught me the need for a vibrant and growing relationship with God. While I learned the Bible and scripture growing up, Alpha took all that knowledge and gave it a new home in my heart. All became warm and cozy; my relationship with God became strong.”

– HOPE MEMBER | ALPHA MINISTRY

“Through CORE, the Life Map began a healing of my heart’s past hurts. CORE gave me hope and taught me the actions I was already doing on a daily basis is discipleship in action. I needed CORE to interpret for me the language of love I was unconsciously speaking and doing every day. CORE has shown me that my job is my mission and has been for some time. While I think I have not changed a great deal, those I work with have seen a change… they comment on the deepening love and patience I have in difficult situations. I love going to work!”

– HOPE MEMBER | CORE MINISTRY

“Serving as a table host for Alpha, Group Launch and New Member class, I find that I am greatly enriched by seeing Christ at work, transforming lives, people growing in faith, growing closer to God… It’s truly a blessing for me to be able to serve and grow in community, relationships, and learn God’s desires for his people, (all people, all inclusive)… I cannot say enough or come up with the right words, but just the exposure to the ministries as a guest or host or facilitator, God touches all those present.”

– HOPE MEMBER | ALPHA, LIFE GROUPS AND NEW MEMBER CLASS MINISTRIES

“The class Discovering God’s Presence in Your Story led me to consider what exactly my chief motivation in life is, and whether or not I live in a way that places that motivation in the center of my being. The class constantly guided me back to the question, “Am I living the life God intended me to live?” which persuaded me to take a reflective approach to discerning my own purpose. My experience during this class helped me to realize God’s presence, and to have faith to follow the passion I have in my heart to live in a way that contributes goodness and peace. During the class I became more aware of how our lives are all connected and how our stories are all interwoven – realizing our oneness is in God’s story is where the goodness and peace resides.”

– HOPE MEMBER | PURPOSEFUL LIVING MINISTRY

REVIVE

A letter from Pastor Jeremy

This has been another great year at REVIVE. I continue to be amazed at the way God shows up on Thursday nights. There have been a few really exciting things that stick out from this past year:

- We launched a life groups ministry that currently has over 35 people
- We developed a course on healthy relationships and we had over 70 people (35 couples) go through it
- We held three Prayer & Worship Nights where people are able encounter God in a powerful way

This coming year we anticipate and fully expect that God will continue to be alive at REVIVE, as our leadership team continues to dream up ways to reach the young adult population of Des Moines!

Pastor Jeremy

Average Weekly Attendance: 185

“REVIVE means a time to step away from the busyness of the week, unplug and worship Our Creator. It’s a place to be reminded that other 20 and 30-somethings are in seasons of transition, and we can encourage and support each other along the way.”

– REVIVE ATTENDER

“It’s amazing watching God work through these young people! In this last year I have witnessed friendships being made, life groups created, Men’s and Women’s groups formed, study groups, prayer teams, hospitality teams, service teams and many more amazing areas God is working in, become more involved. The people I see attend REVIVE are serious about their faith and serious about making a difference in this world. It gives me hope that the future is bright and that REVIVE can grow and do even more amazing things in the lives of so many others!”

– REVIVE ATTENDER

“I always look forward to REVIVE on Thursday nights because it truly lives up to its definition. To give new strength or energy and restore to life. I feel the new strength and energy God bestows upon us each week. Through the soul-touching music and the powerful messages, it really clears the mind and heart and changes how I feel. Gives me a fresh new feeling to another week!”

– REVIVE ATTENDER

“A letter from Pastor Jeremy

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– REVIVE ATTENDER
A letter from Pastor Scott

The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!” Mark 1:15

What an incredibly faith-building year it has been at Hope’s Ankeny campus. In March of 2006, following years of prayer and planning, Hope Ankeny began holding worship services. God proved faithful. Ministries grew and expanded. Lives were changed by the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In March of 2015, following years of prayer and planning, Hope Ankeny moved into a permanent church building at 520 NW 36th Street. For those of you who have been around Hope Ankeny for a while, the move into the new building might have cause you to say, “At last!”

At last we don’t have to transform a middle school gym into a worship center every weekend! At last we don’t have to sit on cold metal folding chairs in the middle of January! At last we have room for over 1000 children to come to VBS. At last we have a sacred space for important life moments like weddings and funerals.

So I want to be sure to say thank you to everyone who has helped Hope Ankeny be a mobile church. Your faithful service the last 9 years has been a blessing to me, and the Kingdom of God.

The temptation is to think now that we have a building we have arrived in the Promised Land! At last! But there’s another phrase that I’m more interested in.

What’s Next?

In some ways it feels like we are starting again. Part of what that means is we are once again trusting God to prove himself faithful. We are trusting ministries will grow and expand. We are trusting lives will be changed by the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This year at Hope we’ve gone “Back to the Basics” by digging into the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We’ve been reminded of the Good News of God’s amazing grace and unconditional love.

But at some level there is nothing “basic” about what God is doing, and that’s certainly the case at Hope Ankeny. As we prepare for a new year of ministry, we’ll continue to offer worship services, ministry to children, students and adults that will connect people to God and to one another. We’ll continue to love and serve the community through our Missions and Outreach ministries.

Without a doubt there’s something new God is calling us to this year. And that means there’s something new God is calling you to this year. I hope you’ll join me in praying for God to give us faith to see “what’s next?” for Hope Ankeny.

In Christ,
Scott Rains

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FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THIS GOOD NEWS ABOUT CHRIST. IT IS THE POWER OF GOD AT WORK, SAVING EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES... THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED FROM START TO FINISH BY FAITH.

ROMANS 1:16-17

Average Weekly Attendance: 1,131
Total number of members: 1,683
Total number of new members: 156
Total number of baptisms: 75

For I am not ashamed of this good news about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes... this is accomplished from start to finish by faith.

Romans 1:16-17
A letter from Pastor Jon

If there was one phrase to sum up this past year for us at Hope Des Moines, it would be, “On the move!” Not only were we on the move throughout the year, being active as the church, but we also physically moved into a brand new permanent home in the city in December 2014- January 15. Yet most importantly, God is the one who’s been on the move this whole year, changing lives, growing us deeper and wider as a church family. If there’s one thing we’ve realized as a church family, it’s that not only is God always on the move, but as we follow Him, it’s impossible not to join the movement as well (Jn. 20:21).

The first big “move” of the year happened late in December 2014, and rolled right into January 2015. After a wildly successful giving campaign, we launched headfirst into the complete renovation of our new facility at 1821 Ingersoll Ave. (formerly Bill Jensen Chevrolet). From the beginning, it was our goal to engage and involved the congregation not only in the financial support of this project (our treasure), but also our time and talents in the build-out and design of the actual space.

Literally hundreds of volunteers donated countless hours the entire year, pouring themselves whole-heartedly into this project. On December 7, 2014, we officially held services for the first time in the new facility, with standing room only! We dedicated the building to God’s glory that day, and reminded ourselves that the work has not ended, but only just begun to use this facility as a tool to reach the 10’s of thousands of people in the city who don’t know Jesus or have a church home.

Although we’re in the actual building now, the Building Hope Together campaign continues through December of 2016. Gifts and pledges continue to come in, as God has been so faithful to continue to reduce our debt through faithful giving. We still have lots of exciting work left, but we remain confident that He will finish the good work He began!

Since then, we’ve continued to experience many “great problems” with overflow seating for worship, classes, and events. The second big “move” of the year has been from the Hope Des Moines congregation themselves. Instead of settling and becoming complacent, we’ve been on the move, being the hands and feet of Jesus in a city that desperately needs to experience His love in a tangible way. The mission of Jesus calls us to GO! Yet the incarnation of Jesus calls us to STAY. To love the people we’re called to reach with our lives, day in and day out. His love in a tangible way. The mission of Jesus calls us to GO! Yet the incarnation of Jesus calls us to STAY. To love the people we’re called to reach with our lives, day in and day out.

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Needless to say, God has been “on the move” this past year in tremendous ways. I can’t wait to see what He has in store next! Praise God for the ways His kingdom is expanding as He works through Hope Des Moines!

Jon Anenson
Hope Des Moines Campus Pastor
Dear Hope Johnston-Grimes,

“Does Jesus really love me?” A five year old boy asked this life changing question to a leader in a closing session of VBS this year. The beauty of this basic question is that it leads us all to the most important answer ever- “Yes, Jesus loves you.” We can never get enough of this basic life-giving truth. It’s been an incredible year of learning and growing for us as a church in getting “Back to the Basics” as our annual theme.

Studying the life of Jesus in the gospels of Matthew Mark, Luke has proven rich. And soon we will finish the year with the gospel of John. It’s given us an in depth look at just how much Jesus loves us, his mission to glorify God in seeking and saving the lost, and empowered us to reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ.

I want to thank our congregation, church council, senior leadership, and staff for your leadership, willingness, and readiness to move where the Holy Spirit leads us. Here are a few highlights from our fourth year in being a congregation of Lutheran Church of Hope.

Building the church is something Jesus has been doing for a long time, is doing now, and will be doing until it is finished. We continue to grow as a campus and are looking forward to seeing our new building plans come into view. Our building campaign, Building Hope Together, is finishing our second of a three-year campaign to fund a new church building in partnership with the YMCA. While our projected timeline has been delayed for the building what has remained the same is the vision for the partnership and your faithfulness. We are continuing to explore options towards a ”groundbreaking” in 2016.

In the mean time Hope Johnston/Grimes continues to grow both deep and wide as a congregation. In partnership with a great staff our volunteers continue to provide so many great opportunities for people to grow in faith- weekend worship, children and student ministries, special events, small groups, and local missions have been areas where we have great strength.

In the coming year I am looking forward to continued growth as we launch HopeKids, our new children’s ministry. We will also focus on creating fellowship with both fall and spring Life Groups campaigns. And of course because we are Hope we will dive into all the great local/global outreach and mission opportunities that keep us in the heavenly sweet spot of loving God and loving people.

I have enjoyed my second year as your campus pastor- preaching, teaching, VBS, outdoor worship, prayer, counseling, hospital visits, weddings, 3rd grade Bible class, PowerLife, music, packaging meals, Lent Life Groups, writing my weekly pastor updates, singing, seeing men and women rise up as leaders...the list continues but at the heart of all these activities are relationships with you. Thanks to our great staff and to you for being a congregation who is spirited, growing, and Christ-centered. I love being part of this community filled with hope.

In Christ,
Eric Voelker
A letter from Pastor Pat

Paul writes, “Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.”  -- Colossians 2:7

On October 26, 2014 the first worship services and doors to Hope Waukee were opened. The launch team consisted of 40 individuals and couples who helped with the recruiting of volunteers, and who organized hundreds of volunteers into many teams to help with programming, hospitality, production, prayer, set-up, tear down, children’s ministry, finance, and fellowship.

In just a few weeks of opening the doors to Hope Waukee our volunteer children’s team put together a fabulous traditional Children’s Christmas program. The cuteness of the kids and story of Christ’s birth was a definite highlight to an already special season for the church.

Christmas Eve services were held at Des Moines Christian in Urbandale. The facility was very accommodating as Waukee schools were closed for the winter break. Nearly 500 attended services, and special thanks to Quality Manufacturing who allowed us to borrow a special centerpiece that created a special place for family members to congregate at and take that priceless, holiday family photo.

The Easter season was a wonderful time too! We hosted an entire Meals from the Heartland packaging day at Shuler Elementary, and were able to see the kids join our Church on a mission during Lent. As we approached our six-month anniversary in April we saw the body of Christ come together for a good ole fashion congregation potluck following the Sunday morning services. As one mom said, “Let’s do this every week!”

It was an incredible summer where we hired 3 incredible individuals part-time who will help in providing exceptional programming for our children on Sunday mornings, and an additional part-time staff member, who happens to be a two-year seminary student, who is helping with our weekend operations.

Plans for this next year include:
- Opening our doors at our future location on September 13, 2015.
- Launching HopeKids at both the 9:15 and 11:00 am services on Sunday’s.
- Fall Capital Campaign for purchase of Point of Grace property.
- Growing our discipleship ministry opportunities.
- Developing our Junior and Senior High Ministry for Fall of 2016.

A special thanks to all of you who have prayed for the Waukee campus this past year, and to all of the volunteers who have been so committed in giving Jesus your best!

In thankfulness,
Pat Quaid
**REVIVE**

A letter from Pastor Jeremy

This has been another great year at REVIVE. I continue to be amazed at the way God shows up on Thursday nights. There have been a few really exciting things that stick out from this past year:

- We launched a life groups ministry that currently has over 35 people
- We developed a course on healthy relationships and we had over 70 people (35 couples) go through it
- We held three Prayer & Worship Nights where people are able encounter God in a powerful way

This coming year we anticipate and fully expect that God will continue to be alive at REVIVE, as our leadership team continues to dream up ways to reach the young adult population of Des Moines!

Pastor Jeremy

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“REVIVE means a time to step away from the busyness of the week, unplug and worship Our Creator. It’s a place to be reminded that other 20 and 30-somethings are in seasons of transition, and we can encourage and support each other along the way.” – REVIVE attender

“REVIVE has changed my life for the better. Not only has it helped lead me to a better path for my life, it has opened up a broad horizon of opportunity to grow stronger in faith, courage, service and friendship that I otherwise may never have found. It’s more than just a weekday worship service. It’s a chance to make friends, get connected in groups, spread the good word of Jesus Christ, to get plugged in with volunteer opportunities and grow with others through God’s guidance and love.”

– REVIVE ATTENDER

“I always look forward to REVIVE on Thursday nights because it truly lives up to its definition. To give new strength or energy and restore to life. I feel the new strength and energy God bestows upon us each week. Through the soul-touching music and the powerful messages, it really clears the mind and heart and changes how I feel. Gives me a fresh new feeling to another week!”

– REVIVE ATTENDER

“It’s amazing watching God work through these young people! In this last year I have witnessed friendships being made, life groups created, Men’s and Women’s groups formed, study groups, prayer teams, hospitality teams, service teams and many more amazing areas God is working in, become more involved. The people I see attend REVIVE are serious about their faith and serious about making a difference in this world. It gives me hope that the future is bright and that REVIVE can grow and do even more amazing things in the lives of so many others!”

– REVIVE ATTENDER

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**Average Weekly Attendance:** 185